

PROCLAMATION

BY THE

*Governor of the State of Texas*

NO.

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

I am vetoing and filing with the Secretary of State House Bill No. 188 passed at the recently adjourned Regular Session of the Forty-Eighth Legislature.

The emergency clause of this bill recites a laudable purpose. My objection to the bill arises from the belief that it would open the door to exploitation of prison labor for private benefits, and that the ensuing injury to prison morale would be greater than the advantages to be expected under the operation of the bill.

I am further impressed by the information on file in my office showing the reduction of the number of inmates in our Prison System during the past years. In fact the number has declined during the past two years. It is my belief that all the convict labor available in our Prison System can be utilized to the fullest advantage on our prison farms and in our prison industries. The proper cultivation of prison lands is as necessary to insure food production as the cultivation of privately-owned lands. Food produced on prison lands will contribute to winning the war in like manner as food produced on privately owned lands.

No facts have been furnished me which indicate a surplus of farm labor in our Prison System. The bill is not only unsound as a public policy but in my opinion it would make no contribution to the total food supply. If it accomplished anything, it would merely shift production from prison lands to those privately owned.